

## Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Grant Abstract

### *Florida*

The State of Florida, Department of Children and Families in collaboration with the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is submitting this response to Demonstration Project entitled Community-Based Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities to achieve the following goals:

- Implement individualized, strength-based, and family/child/youth driven service plans that integrate services across programs for youth and their families and provide intensive community-based mental health services.
- Increase family, children and youth participation in system planning and management.
- Assist children, youth and families to manage their mental illness and care through increased levels of consumer-directed care.
- Provide options for families that have no insurance coverage for intensive community-based mental health supports and treatments for their children and youth, and divert the children/youth's admission to a PRTF.
- Demonstrate that the provision of flexible home and community-based services can divert children from child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health restrictive settings.
- Use the findings from the demonstration to improve the overall system of care.

The eligibility criteria for this demonstration is children and youth age 5 through 17 who meet the categorical criteria for the Statewide Psychiatric Inpatient Program, who based upon the income of the child/youth meets Medicaid financial eligibility and who do not have any medical insurance that covers intensive community-based services. The demonstration will operate in AHCA Areas 6 and 8 that were chosen because they had the lowest funding levels for non-Medicaid eligible children in the state.

This demonstration project will be used to implement five components designed to improve community-based, integrated services, and outcomes for children youth and families. These will focus on developing community-based systems of care; implementing child/youth/family-driven Integrated Individualized Service Plans; using the Wraparound model; developing new community-based services using evidence-based practices whenever feasible; helping children/youth and families develop the ability to self-manage their services and treatment; and to imbed the lessons learned into the overall system of care.

The Federal award is expected to start on December 1, 2006 with the first nine months reserved as needed for development and approval of the implementation plan. Florida intends to start services on July 1, 2007.